Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 OES-06 //080 W

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O 100752Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6037

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 3400

FOR EA/J SHERMAN FROM SHOESMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. IMAI TO U.S.

REF: TOKYO 3316

- 1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IMAI VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA. OKAWA WAS QUITE EMPHATIC IN BELIEVING THAT IMAI VISIT PRIOR TO PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT COULD SERVE A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE IN FURTHER CLARIFYING GOJ'S VIEWS PARTICULARLY IF IMAI IS ABLE TO MEET WITH SUCH PERSONS AS NYE, BRZEZINSKI AND SCHLESINGER WHO INOUE WAS UNABLE TO MEET. IN ADDITION, OKAWA POINTED OUT THAT DURING INOUE'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON A NUMBER OF POINTS WERE RAISED FOR WHICH HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO RESPOND AND WHICH IMAI WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH. OKAWA INDICATED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY IMAI HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THAT BOTH YAMAZAKI AND DEPUTY MINISTER ARITA WERE STRONGLY IN FAVOR.
- 2. AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, IMAI IS SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE BOTH IN JAPAN AND U.S. FOR HIS RATHER AGRESSIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

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INDEPENDENT VIEWS. IN ADDITION, HE CAN NOT ALWAYS BE COUNTED UPON TO REPRESENT ACCURATELY GOJ POSITIONS. HE IS NONETHELESS A PERSON WHO HAS A BROAD AND THOROUGH GRASP OF NUCLEAR POWER ISSUES AND HIS VIEWS ARE WELL RESPECTED HERE.

3. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, I CONCLUDE THAT IF IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR IMAI TO MEET WITH KEY PERSONALITIES

INVOLVED IN THE SHAPING OF OUR NUCLEAR POLICY INCLUDING SCHLESINGER, BRZEZINSKI AND NYE, WE SHOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO HIS VISIT AS PROPOSED. I DO NOT SEE HOW IT CAN DO ANY HARM AND IT MAY WELL BE REASSURING TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RECEPTIVE TO THE GOJ'S EFFORTS TO INSURE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF ITS CONCERNS. SHOESMITH

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